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PATENT
P-4993

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Jurgensen et al. Conf.: 5633
Appl. No.: 09/756,590 Group: 1641
Filed: January 8, 2001 Examiner: M. T. Tran
For: Method of Separating Cells from a Sample

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REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

December 23, 2002

Sir:

In reply to the Examiner's Office Action dated August 28, 2002, the response having been extended by one (1) month, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification, please replace the paragraph on page 18, beginning at line 19 to page 19, line 14 with the following:

-- In this embodiment, a biological sample, such as a blood sample, is placed in container 32. An amount of microbeads 64 having an affinity binding agent for a target component is mixed with the sample. Container 32 is then centrifuged as in the previous embodiment to collect the microbeads 64 with the captured target component in longitudinal channels 62 of float 48. Microbeads 64 and the captured target component can then be analyzed by visualizing the target component within container 32 by microscopy methods as known in the art.